Functioning of 20-Point Programme

766. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 20 Point Programme still continues to be the major programme of Government;

(b) whether some of the issues of the new economic policy of liberalisation have come into conflict with some of the points of the 20-Point Programme;

(c) if so, in what manner this conflict is being resolved;

(d) whether the 20-Point Programme division finds it difficult to function in view of the policy of liberalisation; and

(e) how will the 20-Point Programme dovetailed into the New Economic Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The twenty Point Programme, as a package of schemes for betterment of the poor, continues to be implemented and monitored by the Government for its importance in the New Economic Policy.

People below the Poverty Line

767. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many people are below the poverty line in the country, State-wise as on 1st February, 1994;

(b) what is the latest criterion for fixing persons below the poverty line;

(c) how many persons have come above the poverty line during the last three years; and

(d) which are the first five States having done good work in raising persons above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Planning Commission estimates state-wise number of persons below poverty line on the basis of quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure (NSSO). The latest estimates of poverty are based on the quinquennial survey held in 1987-88. The estimates of state-wise poverty as on 1st February, 1994, are not available.

(b) The poverty line in India, based on the recommendations of a Task Force on "Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" which submitted its report in 1979, is defined as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs.49.09 in rural areas and Rs.56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corrosponding to the per capita calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urabn areas. The poverty line defined this way is updated for the reference year for price rise.

(c) Estimates of poor for last three years are not available.

(d) Five States with the lowest poverty ratio are Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir and Goa.